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Statement submitted by Fundacja Instytut na rzecz Kultury Prawnej Ordo Iuris, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

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Statement

The Ordo Iuris Institute for Legal Culture welcomes the opportunity to assist the Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in its preparations of the 2018 ECOSOC High-Level Segment.

Below, the Ordo Iuris presents the main issues related to the theme: From global to local: supporting sustainable and resilient societies in urban and rural communities.

Supporting societies in urban and rural communities should be focused on the basic units of societies — on a family. Good condition of a family is a key to sustainable and resilient social and economic development. A family is a basic unit of society and natural environment for the growth of the human being. A family plays the most crucial roles in all societies such as: primary educator, social safer and economic driver.

Human mobility that is observed within countries often lead to greater urbanization and faster development of urban than rural communities. Urbanization is one of the main risks that affect a family by modifying structures and relations within a family. Effects of urbanization affect both cities' and villages' communities. Common problems faced by a family that are affected by urbanization are: long separation, the father's absence from the household and family break up. Inner migration to cities is often driven by the economic situation of a family. Economic benefits, although very important, cannot cover other potential risks related to family separation.

Therefore, the protection of the family is the main obligation of society and the State in order to create sustainable and resilient societies. The reason for such a protection is the fact that a family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members and particularly children. This fact is acknowledged in most fundamental treaties such as UDHR (art. 16), ICCPR (at. 23), ICESCR (art. 10), CRC (Preamble), CRPD (Preamble), and CEDAW (art. 16). Only proper protection and assistance given to a family can ensure that it can fully assume its responsibilities within the community, especially bringing up children in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding in the family environment.

First of all, urban and rural communities need to ensure basic needs of families to thrive, such as:

- Employment stability: stable employment and low labour taxation are the most important determinants of the development of a family;
- Housing for family: housing preferences for marriages and families with children allow family development and avoidance of long separation;
- Flexible forms of childcare: modern family policy should not unilaterally rely on the financing of institutional childcare facilities. Providing parents with a real choice regarding child care can guarantee a real sense of security of family;
- Family-friendly cities: human settlements planning should take into account family needs.

Only family-friendly urban and rural communities can lead to creating sustainable and resilient societies.